

Announcement of an extension of the public comment period for the draft TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) in Bull Creek in Buchanan County, Virginia.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To extend the public comment period for the draft Bull Creek TMDL.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ has been working to identify sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms in the waters of Bull Creek. Bull Creek is in Buchanan County and flows along Route 609 to Levisa Fork downstream of Grundy, Virginia. The “impaired” stream segments are estimated to be approximately 16.9 miles including Bull Creek, from the headwaters to the confluence with Levisa Fork, and all tributaries; Belcher Branch, Deel Fork, Burnt Poplar Branch, Big Branch, Starr Branch, Jess Fork, and Convict Hollow. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms.

During the study, the pollutants impairing the aquatic community have been identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, May 12, 2008 to May 28, 2008. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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